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FREE TRAINING OFFERED TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mediators and conflict resolution facilitators who want to learn more about domestic violence are invited to attend a free half-day training session on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Kaua'i Civil Defense training room in Lihue.

Carol Lee, domestic violence trainer, and Maureen Kiehm, program specialist of the First Judicial Circuit, will help mediators and facilitators recognize the signs of domestic violence and understand its impact on victims. Participants will learn about the potential for lethality and the emotional effects of domestic violence. The objective of the program is to help mediators and conflict resolution facilitators deliver their services more effectively and enable them to better determine if mediation is appropriate when domestic violence is involved.

In Hawai'i, domestic violence affects thousands of individuals and their families every year. "Hawai'i is a very progressive state when it comes to understanding domestic violence and promoting healthy relationships," says Elizabeth Kent, Director, Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution. "I believe we are the first state to offer this type of free training to help win the battle against domestic violence."

The training is hosted by the Hawai'i State Judiciary's Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Mediation Program and is funded by the First Judicial Circuit Court through a STOP Violence Against Women grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Seating is limited. To register, call 245-4077 by November 23, 2004.

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